

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 and 13-19 are pending in this application. By this amendment, claim 13 is amended. Reconsideration based on the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants gratefully appreciate the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative by the Examiner during the personal interview. The points discussed are incorporated into the following remarks.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge that the Office Action indicates that claims 15 and 16 are allowed, and claim 18 includes allowable subject matter.

I. Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as unpatentable over Japanese Patent Publication No. 61-284573A ("JP'573"); and claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Japanese Patent Publication No. 11-316220A ("JP'220") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,845,041 to Scuitto et al. ("Scuitto"). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

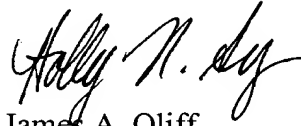
During the personal interview the Examiner proposed amending claim 13 to clarify the claim language "arranged to counter." Thus, for the purpose of clarification, claim 13 is amended.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-11, 13-14 and 17-19 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Holly N. Sy
Registration No. 50,212

JAO:HNS/al

Date: October 24, 2003

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
--